



# The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 27 – Number 3

May 2008

Much has happened over the last 6 months and as always we hope this edition of The Thistle will give you a helpful and informative update. If you have any comments on how we can improve then please do call or write to Colonel Dick Mason. Let me also remind you of our Regimental website [www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk). Do take a moment to visit it; it looks great and is kept up to date. Captain Bill Sutherland and his team have done a tremendous job revamping and modernising it.

Many will already know, but for those who did not receive the news, I am delighted to announce that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has kindly agreed to be the Patron of the Regimental Association. We will of course be considering potential opportunities for The Princess Royal to meet members of the Association.

From the contributions provided by the Association Branches you will note that they continue to flourish. Membership continues to rise and events are well attended and enjoyed by all. In particular I would like to highlight the tremendous turnout for the Remembrance events in London, superbly organised for all by the Southern Section.

On the serving front you should be aware that The Royal Regiment of Scotland is heavily committed to operations; all seven battalions have had or have major operational commitments this year. There are more SCOTS than paratroopers with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Afghanistan! The 1st Battalion (1 SCOTS), have had a fascinating tour in Iraq, being at the forefront of the Divisional Main Effort and achieving notable operational success. During their tour, in February, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Bruce handed over command of the 1st Battalion to Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Herbert.



## Dates for your Diary

- May 25 Southern Branch Summer Lunch
- June 6 1 SCOTS March - Hamilton
- June 7 1 SCOTS March - Dumfries
- June 8 1 SCOTS March - Musselburgh
- June 9 1 SCOTS March - Edinburgh
- June 12 Officers' Cocktail Party
- Sep 27 Association Dinner
- Sep 28 Musselburgh Races
- Oct 10 Officers' Regimental Dinner
- Nov 3 Opening of Garden of Remembrance (Edinburgh)
- Nov 6 Opening of Garden of Remembrance (London)
- Nov 8 Annual Service – Regimental Plot, Westminster Abbey
- Nov 9 Remembrance Sunday
- Nov 11 Wreath laying – Glencorse Gates

We wish Colonel Charlie all the very best for his tour in command. To Colonel Bob Bruce I am sure you will all wish me to thank him deeply and warmly for his outstanding leadership throughout his tour, especially the exemplary manner in which he has tackled the merger of The Royals and Borderers into the new 1st Battalion. He has laid the foundations, retaining the fine



*Lt Col Bruce in Belize*

traditions and customs of both antecedent Regiments, and engendering amongst all ranks tremendous spirit, professionalism and pride. He has been a superb Commanding Officer. We wish him all the very best as Chief of Staff 6th Division.

Brigadier R L  
Scott-Bowden MBE

# 1st Battalion

## The Royal Regiment of Scotland

This article is written from Basrah, in Iraq, as the Battalion is about a third of the way through its operational tour. We are the first Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland to deploy on operations. For us, this represents the culmination of the merger process; we have formed a new team, we have trained hard and we are now conducting operations. The Colours of both 1 RS and 1 KOSB stand proudly in our Battlegroup Headquarters.



### *Dawn Insertion*

Following the success of our major overseas exercise in Belize in the spring of last year, we were formally credited with the highest level of training competence to which a battlegroup can aspire and we were ready for operational pre-deployment training. For our deployment to Iraq we were required to furnish 2 manoeuvre companies, the Brigade Surveillance Company, an Echelon and to detach 2 platoons to The Scots Guards. Up to that point we had worked hard to forge the identities of our companies and we did not want to stand one down for its first operational tour. We took therefore the decision to tip the Battalion into the melting pot and, for the period of this tour only, generate new companies. These were to be named after shared battle honours. The Brigade Surveillance Company became the 'BSC' and we formed Mons and Rhine Companies and the Minden Contingent to be detached to The Scots Guards.

Our initial pre-deployment training took place, in the time-honoured way, in barracks and then at Lydd and STANTA. We were delighted to host a visit from some of our retired community. The young Jocks enjoyed

meeting their senior forebears and the visitors claimed to enjoy the range stew!

To hone our skills further we then deployed, along with the rest of 4 Mechanized Brigade, to Hohenfels in Bavaria for a full-scale Mission Rehearsal Exercise. This took our training to a level that few had experienced. For example all the Jocks conducted 'strike' ops, firing full bore live ammunition as they worked through houses in teams and platoons, neutralising the threat from terrorists, rescuing hostages, capturing 'Bravos' and securing site-sensitive equipment and information. Superb marksmanship, slick weapon handling and the confidence that is borne of extremes of teamwork were much in evidence.

Our deployment to Iraq was staggered over a period of a month, with everyone conducting 'Reception, Staging and Onward Integration' (RSOI) training in Kuwait en route. The RSOI package was very useful. It consisted of various theatre-specific skills, revision periods, PT and ranges. The pace was steady and it allowed all ranks to

visit the large American PX store and eat gargantuan quantities of American food in the large Dining Facilities. Both of these activities, plus a CSE show from the Washington Redskins' Cheerleaders, proved very popular with the Jocks.

We are deployed in Iraq as the 'Mentoring, Monitoring and Training' (M2T) Battlegroup and we are organised as follows:

● **I SCOTS BG:**

- HQ I SCOTS (Tac and Main)
- Ech I SCOTS
- Mons Coy I SCOTS
- Brigade Surveillance Coy I SCOTS
- D Sqn RDG
- Anzio Coy I LANCS
- A Coy I MERCIAN
- B Coy I MERCIAN

● **Dets:**

- Rhine Coy I SCOTS (to I LANCS)
- Minden Contingent I SCOTS (to I SG)

We sit squarely on the Brigade and Divisional Main Effort. Our main focus is on developing the capacity and capability of the Iraqi Army, particularly its new 14th Division. We are spread from Baghdad in the centre of the country to Shaibah and Basrah in the south. We do more than M2T. For example the Brigade Surveillance Company is a specially trained reconnaissance force; it has the most operationally prestigious role in the Force and we were delighted to be selected for the job.



*Good to go*



*Instructing the instructors*

We are operating in a very sensitive environment in Iraq. The threat from rocket and bomb attacks has been significant. We have seen plenty of both but our drills, our equipment and our Force Protection (FP) infrastructure have combined to ensure that we have received no casualties. All ranks have experienced contact with the enemy. All have reacted to this superbly and we have a great deal of confidence in our FP capabilities.

Against the backdrop of this threat, and while always prepared to close with and defeat our enemy, we have had to tread rather carefully. We have had to operate in such a manner that could not offer political ammunition to insurgents as we have delivered Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) for Basrah Province. For our soldiers, the situation is not unlike that faced by troops in Northern Ireland as we moved through some stages in the peace process. A key difference is that the background level of violence in Iraq is clearly greater than that we experienced in NI over the past 20 years.

Accepting the fact that we were never going to remain in Iraq indefinitely, there had to be some movement at the tactical level. That movement had to see the profile of the Iraqi Security Forces increase and ours decrease proportionally. This has happened gradually, and successfully, over a period of months and the transition to PIC was a key milestone in that process.



*Off Duty*

We have clearly made our mark with the Iraqi Army and have started to develop beyond 'association' and into a level of integration with them. This is a challenge but it is certainly the way forward as we work together to develop them into a sustainable, effective, independent force. They have the talent and the motivation. We are able to offer some advice on structure and training. The Corps is able to help with equipment. We are clearly making headway. The point at which we can withdraw to total overwatch will require a subjective judgement but I am sure we will be ready for it.



*The taxi arrives*

# Regimental Association



*The Princess Royal*

## Patron

With the demise of the Regiment, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal ceased to be our Colonel-in-Chief. She is, of course, the Royal Colonel of both the 1st and the 6th Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. However we are delighted to report that our link with Her Royal Highness is to continue as she has agreed to become the Patron of The Royal Scots Regimental Association.

## Young Royals are no more

The Regimental Association was formed at a meeting in Edinburgh on 4 February 1893; a Glasgow Branch had its first meeting on 9 July 1908 and the London Section held its inaugural meeting on 9 July 1910 in the Victoria Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road. In 1978 Lieutenant General Sir David Young, as Colonel of the Regiment, was keen to expand the Association and decided that, in Scotland, the geographic Branches should be replaced by 5 Sections based on the existing informal Dinner Clubs of the Wartime Battalions and a new Section formed for those who had served after 1945, which was subsequently named after him; the Young Royals were born.

We all know of the changes in recent years. The Regiment is, alas, no more and the Association is now The Regiment and it will continue. But it needs to be made "fit for purpose". The first job was to reword the Constitution to bring it up-to-date, and express it in a language that did not need a lawyer, barrack room or otherwise, to interpret it. Colonel Robert Watson made an excellent job and a "new" Constitution resulted.

The passage of time has meant that our Wartime Sections have decreased in membership and activities but they will continue for as long as they are able, administered by Captain Bill Sutherland. To fit in, the Young Royals will be changing a bit... but not a lot. The current Sub Sections will become the Sections of the revamped Association, with slight name changes in a couple of places. Thus the Edinburgh Sub Section will become THE EDINBURGH BRANCH.

The East Lothian and Midlothian Sub Sections will combine to become THE EAST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH. The West Lothian Sub Section will become THE CENTRAL SCOTLAND BRANCH. The Regimental Association Pipe Band will also be a Branch in its own right. Each of these will be full Branches in the Association and will send Office Bearers to the Regimental Association AGM to assist in its running. The current Chairman and Secretary will also join the General Committee. Branches will elect their own Office Bearers, run their own bank accounts, run their own functions, and be responsible, as they always have been, for the implementation of the Constitution of the Association.

A look at the map of Scotland will show you that the "new" Branches cover our former Regimental Recruiting area. The Southern Section will continue to be responsible for retired Royals living south of the border and overseas. There are parts of Scotland without a Branch, such as the Highlands, but the system is flexible enough to cope with expansion should the need arise. We could even cope with an outpost in Fiji if the ex Jocks from the Pacific area wished it.

I hope the foregoing will help to dispel some of the fears, answer some of the questions, and quash any rumours going the rounds. The changes are NOT a secret plan to remove your trews, impose new regulations or get rid of the Royal Scots name. The Association will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of all that was good in The Royal Scots and will exist for the benefit of current and future ex members of the Regiment.



## CALLING ALL ROYAL SCOTS ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION IF NOT — WHY NOT?

The Regimental Association is the future of The Regiment. It is important that we keep alive the name of The Royal Scots and remember those who have gone before us. Keep in touch with your former comrades.

### JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

Contact — Home Headquarters The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)  
0131-310-5016 or [rhqrs@btconnect.com](mailto:rhqrs@btconnect.com) — more at — [www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk)

## Southern Section

Our events began with the opening of the Garden of Remembrance on Thursday 8 November at which Alan Dunn was our front man.



On Saturday afternoon about fifty of us met at the War Cabinet Rooms for a fascinating tour aided by an excellent commentary system through the rooms and corridors of Churchill's underground command centre where he, the Chiefs of Staff and members of the War Cabinet took many of the key decisions leading to final victory in 1945. Built below ground there was no sewage system and thus no loos. With smoking the norm, ventilation must have been hell and the sleeping arrangements none to good. But many of the participants had served in the trenches for four years during WW1 so this troglodyte existence must have seemed better than the Western Front. After emerging from the bunker we walked to Westminster Abbey where Ros Trafford Roberts conducted our annual service at Plot 40 accompanied by Iain Fleming, our Pipe Major, and General Mark Strudwick who gave the 'Exhortation' to the buzz of London traffic in the background.

On Sunday thirty five of us gathered on Horse Guards Parade including two of our WW2 veterans — Ian Munro MC and John Myles complete with one wheelchair managed by Karen, John's granddaughter, who looked after both of them! Formed

## Association Pipe Band

In its eighth year, the Royal Scots Association Pipe Band has continued to make quiet progress. The Band remains in demand to supply solo pipers or mini-Bands for Burns Suppers, private parties and dinners at The Royal Scots Club, for Association events and even the occasional wedding. The full Band also played at its own Beating of Retreat in Queen Street Gardens last June, as well as for a number of high profile events.

As mentioned in last year's report, in May 2007 the Band was invited to play for a large corporate event in Genoa for Finmeccanica, the second largest defence contractor in the UK. A mini Band of around a dozen performed at the Company's gala dinner and concert in the City's Opera House, allowing the remainder of the party the chance to enjoy the sights (and the weather) of Genoa. The whole Band of 35 pipers and drummers performed at the Company's family day at the airport on the Saturday, to a

sunny backdrop of military aircraft in static and flying displays. The Band was invited to appear, for the second time, on the Saturday and Sunday of the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston; performing on their own and in support of the Central Band of the Royal Marines and the Band from 52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It has also continued to acquit itself well whilst performing at Scotland's football matches at Hampden Park for the SFA. It plays outside the stadium as the fans arrive and around the pitch before kick-off. The Band has continued to find pipers and drummers for the Ferry Fair at South Queensferry and it played for the third year running at a celebration of the Chinese New Year in Edinburgh's Festival Theatre at the end of February.

It is an unfortunate fact that all good things must come to an end and, at the Band's AGM last April, Major Eddie Smiles announced that he would be retiring as the Band's Manager. He has been a guiding light since he conceived the idea of forming the Band in 2000. Since he wanted to

into six ranks all wearing dark coats, glengarries and medals we made a fine sight as the sun came out and we marched past the Cenotaph keeping reasonable time due, in part, to our phalanx of ex RSMs and their Drill Sergeant, 2nd Lt Ritchie. Our further progress back to Horse Guards

1,151 killed and many other thousands wounded in WW2. Philip went on to refer to the fragility of the Covenant as between the Nation and its servicemen and the onus placed upon service charities, including our own, to care for and help those in need – an ongoing task which our



Association section, working closely with the Royal Scots Benevolent Fund, will help to achieve. General Philip concluded by passing on a message of good wishes from our former Chairman, Sandy Adams, and by remembering Leo Morey who was our sole representative for some years at the Cenotaph parade and Peter Wagstaff who both passed away this year. After a toast to the 'Regiment' which included our thoughts for 1 SCOTS now starting their operational tour in Iraq, Tam Millar gave a very good briefing recounting his day spent with 1 SCOTS on the Lydd ranges in September where they were doing their

was slowed by road works and the Light Infantry to our front. We ended with a smart 'eyes right' to look The Duke of Edinburgh in the eye.

Our annual lunch at the Army and Navy Club, arranged by Finlay Maclean, attracted so many [63] that we were given a special room. After three courses our President, General Philip Davies, welcomed the large contingent who had come from Scotland headed by Mark and Jan Strudwick. He asked us never to forget that the Regiment suffered 11,213 killed and 40,000 wounded in WW1 and

preparatory training. As with our previous lunches, stories passed round the tables, for example; John Sands getting a grip of his Crossmaglen Company Commander for rudely changing TV channels from Coronation Street to classical music; Steve Simson recounting Laurie Gilbert's experience in having a cigar shot out of his mouth in the Radfan and his Company Commander's love of fruit salad and rich fruit pudding – a story later extended to an exercise in BAOR where a REME artificer welded a tin of the same pudding to Zero Bravo's cupola!

remain involved and the Band did not want to see him depart for good, he was unanimously voted in as the Band's Vice President. Captain Torquil Corkerton, a serving Territorial Officer as well as a piper with the Band, has stepped in to fill the Manager's brogues. In another change, the Band has been fortunate in securing the services of Sid McIver (IRS 80-88) as a keen and motivated acting Pipe Major. Sid has been working quietly over the last few months to build on the Band's repertoire and prepare it for the forthcoming commitments this year.

The purchase of new uniform for the Band, which was reported last year, has now been completed and we can now parade for formal and ceremonial jobs in Blue Patrol dress with Hunting Stewart hose and with hair sporrans for the pipers. The Band intends to parade in this dress for the first time at the Beating of Retreat in Queen Street Gardens this coming June.

As happens every year, not every job the Band is invited to take part in can come to fruition, but this is more often due

to availability and financial constraints. For the first time last June, however, it was due to Britain's weather. The Band was scheduled to perform at the Penrith Show in July. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled at the last moment because the showground was under several feet of water. I am happy to report that the show is scheduled to return this July as are the Royal Scots Association Pipe Band. I am also very pleased to report that the Band has been invited to repeat its performance for Finmeccanica in May, this time in Florence and Pisa, and to be represented at the unveiling of a Memorial to Private Hugh McIver VC MM & Bar at Courcelles Le Comte on the 23 August, as well as continuing to support the Scotland football team at Hampden.

If any former Royal Scots pipers or drummers read this and are interested in keeping their skills up and maintaining their link with their former Regiment, please make contact through Home Headquarters.

# The Royal Scots Club



The Chairman of Trustees, Mr Brian Adair, recently sent out a letter to all of the Club's members informing them that Fitness First had decided to come out of their lease of the basement areas of The Royal Scots Club and had vacated the premises on March 31st 2008.

The Trustees have been delighted with the relationship they have had with Fitness First. Their occupation of the lower parts of the building has been extremely beneficial to the finances and success of The Royal Scots Club. However a wonderful opportunity has now been created for the Trustees to continue to improve the facilities available to members; the major one being the installation of a lift to access all the floors of the Club. The lift will be located at the rear of No. 29 Abercromby Place. This will mean the loss of three of our smaller bedrooms as well as the small office on the ground floor. To compensate for the loss of the bedrooms, we are proposing to erect a two storey building over the current aerobics studio (the old billiard room) to create further bedrooms and an extra meeting room. The area currently occupied by Fitness First will be used as a new function room, serviced office facilities and some smaller meeting rooms. We will also take this opportunity to install more energy efficient boilers and possibly solar panels for water heating.

The Planning Application has been submitted and if all goes well it is hoped that works will start later this year. The Club will continue to operate without disruption other than some noise from general building work. The rear rooms will be sealed off as will the sub-basement and sub-sub-basement and all the work will be carried out from the back of the building. The Trustees are extremely excited about this project, which will improve the Club's facilities and make the buildings more suitable for the 21st Century. Progress will be intimated in future editions of the Club's newsletter "Write of the Line" and members will also be kept up to date through notices on the Club notice board.

**The Royal Scots Club, 30 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE. Tel: 0131 556 4270  
info@royalscotsclub.com www.royalscotsclub.com www.mewscottage.com**



# Domestic Occurrences

## Deaths

### **BARNETT:**

In January 2008, William (Bill) Barnett, formerly 2nd Battalion 1944-48 and 1st Battalion 1951-55.

### **BLACK:**

On 2 March 2008, Robert Black, formerly 1 RS (39-45) and member of the Regimental Association.

### **DAKERS:**

On 21 January 2008, Pete Dakers, formerly 1st Battalion and Chairman of the 1st Battalion (1939-45) Section of the Regimental Association.

### **ERSKINE:**

On 18 November 2007, after a short illness, in Portsmouth, Joe Erskine, formerly WO1 (Supt Clk) and Chief Clerk (ORQMS) 1RS early 1970's.

### **EWART:**

On 8 December 2007, Maj R Ewart, formerly 8th Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

### **FRASER:**

On 15 November 2007, John Fraser, Penicuik, formerly 12th/2nd Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

### **MITCHELL:**

On 10 January 2008, James (Jimmy) Mitchell, formerly 7th/9th Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

### **MUTCH:**

On 25 December 2007, Werl, Germany, Stewart Mutch, aged 43, formerly Private in Signals Platoon in 1st Battalion (discharged early 1990's).

### **RAE:**

On 7 March 2008, aged 61, Peter Rae (Stingray), formerly Sgt Major in 1st Battalion The Royal Scots.

### **ROBERTSON-GLASGOW:**

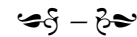
On 21 November 2007, in Bath, Robin Robertson-Glasgow, National Service — 1 RS 1955-57 and member of the Regimental Association.

### **VEITCH:**

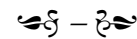
On 27 November 2007, William Veitch, formerly 7th/9th Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

# Dumbarton's Drums

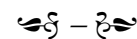
I recently came across this piece of doggerel written, I think, at the time of the Boer War. It might amuse!



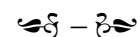
What is that Regiment yonder?  
My own, The Royals, says I,  
You'll open your eyes in wonder  
if you wait till the files go by;  
Look at the swing of the shoulders —  
hark how that music hums!  
There's never a Regiment older — The March?  
Dumbarton's Drums.



'Twas played before the Romans,  
thro' France and Germany  
Thro' Holland, Spain and Portugal,  
at Blenheim and Malplaquet;  
By wealthy Indian palaces,  
thro' filthy eastern slums;  
From East to West they hear and fear  
the roll of Dumbarton's Drums.



In every great pitched battle  
in every little fray,  
To victory thro' slaughter,  
our drums have led the way.  
We've fought in every country,  
wherever foeman comes;  
In every fight it's "By the Right"  
and follow Dumbarton's Drums.



And when you leave the Colours,  
whatever be your lot,  
You never will or can forget  
you're still a Royal Scot;  
You like to keep in touch with  
and meet and treat old chums;  
We're held in bonds of brotherhood  
who've followed Dumbarton's Drums.

# Laying-up Colours



As many of you will know, before the Japanese attack on Hong Kong in 1941, the 2nd Battalion sent their Colours and other property to Singapore for safekeeping. Of course, Singapore was itself overrun and the Colours lost; although the Regimental Colour was recovered after the war. (The story appears on page 275 of Volume 2 of "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard".) In 1948 HRH The Princess Royal presented new Colours to the 2nd Battalion in Dreghorn Barracks but in the following year the amalgamation of our two battalions took place. However the 2nd Battalion Colours remained with the 1st Battalion and were never laid up. As a result of the demise of the Regiment, it was decided that we should correct this anomaly and, at a short ceremony on 5 October 2007, the Colours were placed in a display case in the members' entrance hall at The Royal Scots Club.

## The Child of Waterloo

This is an edited version of an account that appeared in *The Thistle* of June 1895 written by an old soldier calling himself "An Old Milestone". The Milestones was a nickname given to the Regiment because the 'i' worn on accoutrements looked like an old fashioned milestone.

"At the time I write of it was customary for soldiers' wives to follow and accompany their husbands' regiments on active service many of them being present at every engagement in the Peninsula from Corunna to Waterloo.

The subject of this sketch, Sergeant Donald Crawford, was rescued on the field of Waterloo when nestling as a child in the bosom of his mother, who was killed in action. It may be asked what was she doing there, but the poor woman knew of nowhere else to go, and naturally followed the Regiment, in whose ranks her husband fought and fell on the same day as herself. Fortunately for wee Donald he was seen by a Private who was fighting in the ranks, who "fell out" for a moment and picked him up, laying him lengthways across his back on the top of his knapsack lodging him between his rolled greatcoat and the nape of his neck, and immediately resumed his place in the front rank of the fighting line, where the little fellow was happy as a sand boy. I regret, at this distance of time, I cannot recall the good man's name, which is worthy of record, though I have heard it in connection with Sergeant Crawford, with whom I served in the 1st Battalion, who revered the man's memory with all the affection of a son for a father.

In the year 1818, the 3rd and 4th Battalions, notwithstanding their distinguished services, were disbanded, the supernumerary officers being placed on half pay, and such NCOs and men who did not elect to be discharged were drafted into the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The 1st was stationed in the West Indies, and the 2nd in the East. The latter embarked at Gibraltar in 1807 and did not return to Europe until 1832, when they were quartered in Edinburgh Castle. According to the tradition of the Regiment, there was only one man left in the Battalion, a Private in the ranks, who embarked with it at Gibraltar and who returned after its twenty-five year's abroad.

The good fellow, who so humanely, in the heat of battle, picked up the child Donald Crawford, elected to join the 1st Battalion, to which he brought the boy with him, sharing with him his rations until he grew old enough to be enlisted, by special authority, as an acting drummer at ten years of age. The boy was clothed by the Regiment, and his guardian made him attend the Regimental School from his early childhood, through which he received a useful education, and grew up to be a smart able-bodied soldier. Being ambitious to get on, he left the Drums and joined the ranks, when he was appointed Lance Corporal, and in due course attained the rank of Sergeant.

The incident of his having been picked up on the field of Waterloo, and going through the engagement in the manner described, having been brought to the notice of the Duke of Wellington, he ordered him to be granted the Waterloo medal, to which his father would have been entitled had he survived the action, as he was under fire during the whole three day's engagement. He wore the medal on his left breast, until he was discharged to pension in the year 1851, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he elected to settle, like many other time-expired men of the Regiment, most of whom did well in colonial life."

## New Posts

Brigadier Scott-Bowden has handed over as Director of Infantry and is now at The Defence Academy, Shrivenham running the Change Implementation Team. Lieutenant Colonel Bob Bruce has handed over as Commanding Officer 1 SCOTS to Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Herbert and has moved to be Chief of Staff, Headquarters 6th Division in the rank of Colonel.



## Website

The Regimental website ([www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk)) has been modernised and updated. It is now very much more user-friendly and we have the ability to manage and edit the News page and other areas ourselves (even the Regimental Secretary can do it!).

The last 2 issues of The Thistle are available on line and this issue will be added shortly.

Most importantly we can send news and details of events without resorting to the multiple e-mails that we have used in the past. So, if you have access to the Internet, please go to the e-update page and register; in this way we can keep you informed.

## Rugby 7s

Regrettably due to operational and other commitments the 1st Battalion are unable to run their traditional Rugby 7s tournament at Dregghorn Barracks in May.

## Visitor Warning

New access and ticketing arrangements have been introduced at the Castle. This means that if you wish to visit Home Headquarters you must inform us at least 24 hours in advance so that we can tell the Historic Scotland staff, who now operate at the Portcullis Gate, checking tickets. Without this prior warning, you will be denied free entry. Those still serving can gain entry by production of their ID Card.

## Keep in Touch

Please ensure that you keep us up to date with your contact details:

**Home Headquarters,  
The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment),  
The Castle, EDINBURGH EH1 2YT**

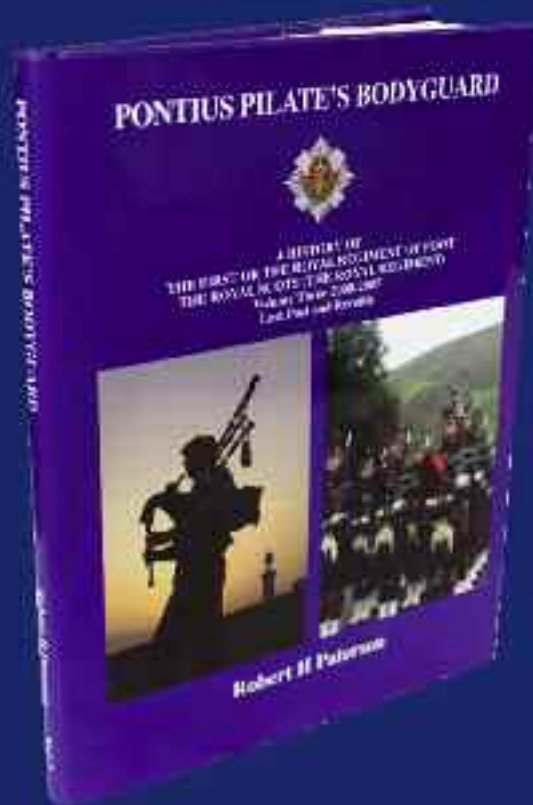
**Tel: 0131 310 5016**

**[rhqrs@btconnect.com](mailto:rhqrs@btconnect.com)**

**[www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk)**

# Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard

A reminder that Volume 3 of our Regimental history is available from Home Headquarters. It covers the final years from 2000 to 2006 and also extends to 2007 to cover the transition to the new Regimental structure; a great buy at £12. We still have copies of Volumes 1 and 2 available and you can buy the set of three for the special price of £80, which includes postage within the UK.



Vol 3 ~ A great buy at @ £12.00

Vols 1, 2 & 3 available at the Special Price of £80.00

## We are Back!

To mark their return from their operational tour in Iraq, the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland plan to march through Edinburgh, Musselburgh, Dumfries and Hamilton in early June.

**6 June - Hamilton at 1600 hrs • 7 June - Dumfries at 1700 hrs**  
**8 June - Musselburgh at 1400 hrs • 9 June - Edinburgh at 1145 hrs**

The exact routes are still to be agreed with the Local Authorities and when available will be publicised on the Regimental website. Regrettably time precludes them from including other venues.



There are many items of  
**Regimental Memorabilia**

for sale in the on-line Shop;  
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